

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A device for protecting a motor vehicle against theft, comprising:

a sensor for providing at least one sensor signal;

a functional unit;

an alarm-signal generator;

at least one signal processing unit for evaluating the at least one sensor signal in a first operating mode for generating a triggering signal for the functional unit, the at least one signal processing unit evaluating the at least one sensor signal in a second operating mode for generating a triggering signal for an alarm-signal generator, the second operating mode differing from the first operating mode; and

an operating-state detection unit for detecting whether at least one of the motor vehicle is in a deactivated state and an alarm function has been primed, wherein:

the second operating mode is activated when at least one of the motor vehicle is in the deactivated state and the alarm function has been primed, and

the first operating mode is activated when the motor vehicle is in an activated state.

2. The device according to claim 1, wherein:

the at least one signal processing unit in the second operating mode detects the at least one sensor signal at a first instant and a second sensor signal at a second instant for producing the triggering signal for the alarm-signal generator.

3. The device according to claim 1, wherein:

one of the triggering signal for the functional unit and the triggering signal for the alarm-signal generator is generated when the at least one sensor signal exceeds a predefinable limiting value.

4. The device according to claim 1, wherein:  
an evaluation of the at least one sensor signal in the second operating mode is started by an activation event.
5. The device according to claim 1, wherein:  
wherein an activation of the second operating mode is performed at least one of cyclically, as a function of an output signal of an intrusion detection unit, and an output signal of another theft-warning device.
6. The device according to claim 1, wherein the sensor includes at least one of:  
a radar sensor,  
an ultrasonic sensor,  
a speed sensor,  
a yaw-rate sensor,  
an acceleration sensor,  
a tire-pressure sensor,  
a travel sensor within a shock absorber,  
a force sensor for determining a vehicle weight, and  
a tank-level sensor.
7. The device according to claim 1, wherein:  
an activation of the second operating mode is evaluated in accordance with a signal of at least one of at least one touch-sensitive door switch, a touch-sensitive locking switch, an ignition/starter switch, and an operating control element for activating an alarm-system function.
8. The device according to claim 1, wherein:  
the sensor detects a surrounding field, and  
the alarm-signal generator is activated when a front distance and a rear distance change in a diametrically opposed manner.